

What is claimed is:

1. A thin film magnetic head including:

a thin film coil for generating a magnetic flux;

a magnetic pole layer extending rearward from a recording-medium-facing surface to be faced with a recording medium which moves in a medium travel direction, the magnetic pole layer for emitting a magnetic flux generated by the thin film coil to the recording medium;

a first magnetic shield layer extending rearward from the recording-medium-facing surface on the side of the medium travel direction with respect to the magnetic pole layer, the first magnetic shield layer being disposed so as to be separated from the magnetic pole layer by a gap layer on the side close to the recording-medium-facing surface and to be coupled to the magnetic pole layer via a back gap on the side far apart from the recording-medium-facing surface; and

a second magnetic shield layer extending rearward from the recording-medium-facing surface on the side of the direction opposite to the medium travel direction with respect to the magnetic pole layer,

wherein the first magnetic shield layer extends rearward relative to the back gap and is physically isolated from the second magnetic shield layer.

2. A thin film magnetic head according to claim 1, wherein the second magnetic shield layer extends rearward relative to the back gap, and an $L1/L2$ ratio which is the ratio of a length $L1$ of the first magnetic

shield layer to a length L2 of the second magnetic shield layer is equal to or more than 0.45.

3. A thin film magnetic head according to claim 2, wherein the L1/L2 ratio lies between 0.45 and 1.3 inclusive.

4. A thin film magnetic head according to claim 1, wherein the second magnetic shield layer extends to the position of the back gap or extends frontward relative to the position of the back gap, and the L1/L2 ratio which is the ratio of the length L1 of the first magnetic shield layer to the length L2 of the second magnetic shield layer is equal to or less than 1.3.

5. A thin film magnetic head according to claim 4, wherein the L1/L2 ratio falls within the range of from 1.0 exclusive to 1.3 inclusive.

6. A thin film magnetic head according to claim 1, wherein the first magnetic shield layer prevents divergence of a magnetic flux emitted from the magnetic pole layer.

7. A thin film magnetic head according to claim 1 further including a magnetoresistive element which performs magnetic processing utilizing a magnetoresistance effect, wherein the second magnetic shield layer magnetically isolates the magnetoresistive element from therearound.

8. A thin film magnetic head according to claim 1, wherein the magnetic pole layer is configured to emit a magnetic flux for magnetizing the recording medium in a direction perpendicular to a surface of the recording medium.

9. A magnetic recording apparatus having a recording medium, and a thin film magnetic head which magnetically records information on the recording medium,

the thin film magnetic head including:

a thin film coil for generating a magnetic flux;

a magnetic pole layer extending rearward from a recording-medium-facing surface to be faced with the recording medium which moves in a medium travel direction, the magnetic pole layer for emitting a magnetic flux generated by the thin film coil to the recording medium;

a first magnetic shield layer extending rearward from the recording-medium-facing surface on the side of the medium travel direction with respect to the magnetic pole layer, the first magnetic shield layer being disposed so as to be separated from the magnetic pole layer by a gap layer on the side close to the recording-medium-facing surface and to be coupled to the magnetic pole layer via a back gap on the side far apart from the recording-medium-facing surface; and

a second magnetic shield layer extending rearward from the recording-medium-facing surface on the side of the direction opposite to the medium travel direction with respect to the magnetic pole layer,

wherein the first magnetic shield layer extends rearward relative to the back gap and is physically isolated from the second magnetic shield layer.